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eliminating this property tax relief would be that the Legislature would be raising property taxes this year, that we were going to raise taxes one way or another, the sales, or the income, or the property taxes. Well, the fact...the fact of the matter is it remains to be seen what we'll do with income and/or sales tax, but with respect to property taxes, even if we take away the \$60 million of property tax relief that the Governor intended to give, don't forget that in the very first year of our school state aid property tax relief program we are giving \$83 million of property tax relief. So the net effect of what we're doing this session will be property tax relief insofar as the action of this body is concerned regardless of what we do with this particular amendment. Yes, it could be more but it is not the difference between no property tax relief or increasing property tax relief, we are giving property tax relief. It's a question of how much we can give. And with that, I'd give the remainder of my time to Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR HILGERT: Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have left?

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: You have roughly three and a half minutes.

SENATOR HILGERT: Three and a half minutes. Thank you very much. I just wanted to also address in a way both what Senator Raikes said and what Senator Vrtiska said. You...there will be property tax relief this year. When the levy limit goes down from \$1.10 to \$1.00, there will be property tax relief. There's many other programs that we, as a state, do that tries to supplant funds to help the local funds that will manifest itself in property tax relief. We have had budgets that had surpluses. The last eight years we have had a growing economy. Unfortunately, now our economy is no longer growing or at least at the rate that it did. When we had those surpluses, we invested in issues and things and buildings and programs that people in Nebraska valued. We also decided to give that money back through property tax relief; collected it, gave it back. This was one of the ways that we said, hey, we're going to take some of the surplus and give it back to you, the people of Nebraska. Now the economy is slowing down. Our projections are slowing down. We don't have that money to send back but we do have an obligation to fund the basic priorities of the state of